

PROJECT RECOVERY UPDATE

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A division of the Mississippi
Department of Mental Health



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Services Provided To More Than 75,000

Project Recovery staff have been busy going door-to-door providing hope in communities throughout the state. Project Recovery has provided services to more than 75,000 Mississippians needing assistance.

In preparation for the upcoming season, Project Recovery is working in conjunction with the Governor's Office Stay Alert, Stay Alive campaign.

Project Recovery staff will be in communities throughout the state distributing flyers to help Mississippians prepare for the 2006 hurricane season. Staff will also provide tips on how to deal with stress.

Recently Project Recovery staff encountered an evacuee from the Gulf Coast whose home had severe damage – to the point that entry to the home was impossible.

Examiners inspected the home for damage, but due to their inability to enter the home, they marked it as having “insufficient damage” to qualify for repair assistance.

After talking to the evacuee and evaluating her for mental health concerns, Project Recovery staff suggested taking pictures to help prove the damage to the home.

The evacuee took pictures and re-submitted her request for assistance with the new pictures as proof. She was subsequently approved for the maximum repair benefit for her home.

The client plans to return to her home on the Gulf Coast once

repairs are completed and all services are restored to the area.



Project Recovery Helpline staff have also been busy answering hundreds of calls each month. To date, the Helpline has provided services to more than 4,000 individuals.

The Helpline recently received a call from an alcoholic who was sober for the first time in four days.

The caller knew of a rehabilitation facility that had a place for him, but he lacked transportation to the facility. The Helpline operator stayed on the telephone with him for more than one hour because he had alcohol in his refrigerator was afraid that if he got off the phone that he would begin drinking again.

During this conversation, another helpline operator contacted the Project Recovery staff in the caller's area. The Helpline continued to talk to the caller until Project Recovery staff arrived at his FEMA trailer.

Because of Project Recovery staff, the caller was provided with resources for transportation to the rehabilitation facility.



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We Are Here
To Listen

We're on the Web!
www.projectrecovery.ms.gov

Outstanding Employee of the Month!

A big smile, an outstretched hand and a warm heart describe outreach worker Jimmy Darby perfectly. Jimmy has been with Project Recovery longer than any other staff member in Region 12.

When asked about his experiences with Project Recovery, Jimmy says that of his many success stories, there is one that still brings tears to his eyes. He and his partner met a mother with seven children at a FEMA trailer two days before Christmas. The mother was distraught and hopeless because there was little food and no gifts.

Jimmy had been networking with Pine Belt Restoration (long-term recovery coalition) and sought out the director as a resource for this family. On Christmas Eve Day members of the coalition drove a pick-up truck filled with food and toys and delivered them to the family's door.

Many thanks to Jimmy for his hard work and dedication to the many persons he is helping through Project Recovery.

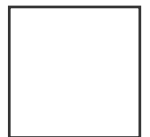
Jimmy and his wife, Anita, live in Ellisville. They have two daughters, ages 24 and 17.



Pictured is Jimmy Darby,
Outreach Worker for Region 12.

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